

## Morning Prayer on Wednesday 16 September 2020

Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c.432

### Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Blessed are you, creator of all,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As your dawn renews the face of the earth  
bringing light and life to all creation,  
may we rejoice in this day you have made;  
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,  
open our eyes to behold your presence  
and strengthen our hands to do your will,  
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### The Word of God

Psalm 119.1-32

*Refrain: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.*

- 1 Blessed are those whose way is pure, ♦ who walk in the law of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies ♦ and seek him with their whole heart,
- 3 Those who do no wickedness, ♦ but walk in his ways.
- 4 You, O Lord, have charged ♦ that we should diligently keep your commandments.
- 5 O that my ways were made so direct ♦ that I might keep your statutes.
- 6 Then should I not be put to shame, ♦ because I have regard for all your commandments.
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, ♦ when I have learned your righteous judgements.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; ♦ O forsake me not utterly.
- 9 How shall young people cleanse their way ♦ to keep themselves according to your word?
- 10 With my whole heart have I sought you; ♦ O let me not go astray from your commandments.
- 11 Your words have I hidden within my heart, ♦ that I should not sin against you.
- 12 Blessed are you, O Lord; ♦ O teach me your statutes.
- 13 With my lips have I been telling ♦ of all the judgements of your mouth.
- 14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies ♦ than in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will meditate on your commandments ♦ and contemplate your ways.
- 16 My delight shall be in your statutes ♦ and I will not forget your word.
- 17 O do good to your servant that I may live, ♦ and so shall I keep your word.
- 18 Open my eyes, that I may see ♦ the wonders of your law.
- 19 I am a stranger upon earth; ♦ hide not your commandments from me.
- 20 My soul is consumed at all times ♦ with fervent longing for your judgements.
- 21 You have rebuked the arrogant; ♦ cursed are those who stray from your commandments.
- 22 Turn from me shame and rebuke, ♦ for I have kept your testimonies.
- 23 Rulers also sit and speak against me, ♦ but your servant meditates on your statutes.
- 24 For your testimonies are my delight; ♦ they are my faithful counsellors.
- 25 My soul cleaves to the dust; ♦ O give me life according to your word.

26 I have acknowledged my ways and you have answered me; ♦ O teach me your statutes.  
27 Make me understand the way of your commandments, ♦ and so shall I meditate on your wondrous works.  
28 My soul melts away in tears of sorrow; ♦ raise me up according to your word. *R*  
29 Take from me the way of falsehood; ♦ be gracious to me through your law.  
30 I have chosen the way of truth ♦ and your judgements have I laid before me.  
31 I hold fast to your testimonies; ♦ O Lord, let me not be put to shame.  
32 I will run the way of your commandments, ♦ when you have set my heart at liberty.  
*Refrain: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.*

*Faithful God,  
let your word be the treasure of our hearts,  
that we may delight in your truth  
and walk in the glorious liberty of your Son Jesus Christ.*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading: St Ninian, by Aeldred of Rievaulx from *Celebrating the Saints*

Canticle: A Song of the Lord's Anointed

**The Lord has anointed me and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.**

1 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me • because he has anointed me.  
2 He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, • to bind up the broken-hearted,  
3 To proclaim liberty to the captives, • and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
4 To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, • to comfort all who mourn,  
5 To give them a garland instead of ashes, • the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit,  
6 That they may be called oaks of righteousness, • the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.  
7 For as the earth puts forth her blossom, • and as seeds in the garden spring up,  
8 So shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise • blossom before all the nations.  
9 You shall be called priests of the Lord; • they shall speak of you as ministers of our God.  
*Isaiah 61.1-3, 11, 6a*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The Lord has anointed me  
and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.**

Scripture Reading Acts 14.8-end

In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been crippled from birth. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said in a loud voice, 'Stand upright on your feet.' And the man sprang up and began to walk. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have come down to us in human form!' Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the

gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, 'Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.' Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city. The next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, 'It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.' And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel and afterwards receive me with glory.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel<sup>[SEP]</sup> and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

**And afterwards receive me with glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel<sup>[SEP]</sup> and afterwards receive me with glory.**

## Gospel Canticle, The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

**Christ gave them as a light to the nations  
that his salvation might reach to the ends of the earth.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦ who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦ born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦ to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦ and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦ holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦ for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦ by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦ the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦ and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Christ gave them as a light to the nations  
that his salvation might reach to the ends of the earth.**

## Intercessions

Lord, meet us in the silence  
**And hear our prayer.**

## The Collect for St Ninian

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who called your servant Ninian to preach the gospel to the people of northern Britain:  
raise up in this and every land heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, that your Church may  
make known the immeasurable riches of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours**  
**now and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

## The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**  
Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**